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January 2016

John M. Cooper Correspondence

John Murray Cooper

Maine State Library

William Sutherland

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COOPER, John M.

COPY

January 24, 1935.

J.W. Arrowsmith, Ltd.
8 Endsleigh Gardens
London, W C 1, England

Gentlemen:

We have recently discovered that the "William Sutherland", author of BEHIND THE HEADLINES and DEATH RIDES THE AIR LINES, is a Maine-born man, John M. Cooper.

We are therefore anxious to get in touch with him in regard to our Maine Author Collection, which includes the works of contemporary writers of Maine birth.

We are asking, therefore, for your cooperation. Would it be possible for you to send us the address of "Mr. Sutherland", in order that we may communicate with him in regard to our Author project.

We will appreciate any assistance you can render us.

Very truly yours,
Maine State Library

lm

Secretary

Brunswick, Maine

February 14, 1935

The Secretary,
Maine State Library,
Augusta

Dear Madam:

I have received from my publishers, J.W. Arrowsmith, Ltd.,
a note enclosing your request for information concerning myself
and my books.

If you will let me know what sort of information you require,
I shall be glad to help you out.

Very truly yours,

John M. Cooper

COPY

February 16, 1935

Mr. John M. Cooper
Brunswick
Maine

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for your offer of help - a rather circuitous trail led to your door! But of course when we learned that the "William Sutherland" who had authored BEHIND THE HEADLINES and DEATH RIDES THE AIR LINES was a Maine man, we were immediately interested.

Some dozen years ago the State Library began to collect the works of contemporary Maine authors, and we met with such cooperation from our writers that this exhibit collection now numbers several hundred inscribed volumes, most of them contributed by the authors.

In connection with our Maine Author Collection we have a biographical file, in which is found much material difficult to obtain in print. Our authors have been very kind in supplying us with biographical data for this file, and we are extremely grateful.

We hope you will want to inscribe for our Maine Author Collection your two books, and also send us material on your life. We assure you of our appreciation, and wish you continued success.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

COPY

March 26, 1935.

Mr. John Cooper
Brunswick
Maine

Dear Mr. Cooper:

In your busy life, we realize that pleas for books must be pigeon-holed for convenient attention, but we fear that our letter of February 16 may have been lost.

You so kindly offered your help in acquiring information about you and your books that we were indeed delighted. We have been fortunate in the cooperation of our authors, and if it were not for their generosity and interest, our Maine Author Collection would not be the success that it is.

Since you are a Maine man, would you not care to inscribe a copy of your two popular books, DEATH RIDES THE AIR LINES and BEHIND THE HEADLINES, for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection? We assure you your kindness would be greatly appreciated.

We endeavor to have every Maine author represented by his inscribed books, and we also collect biographical material, which of course adds to the interest in this exhibit collection. If it is impossible for you to give us the books, will you kindly enclose a bill with them. We are, you see, quite anxious that you be included in our collection!

May we extend to you a cordial invitation to visit our library and the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours,
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

COPY

April 23, 1935

Mr. John M. Cooper
Brunswick
Maine

Dear Mr. Cooper:

We are ordering a copy of each of your books, BEHIND THE HEADLINES and DEATH RIDES THE AIR LINES, from Arrowsmith. These are being sent to you, and we hope you will be kind enough to inscribe them for our Maine Author Collection and forward them to us. We enclose a return label and postage.

We are also hoping that you may find time soon to write a few paragraphs of biographical nature for us. We would very much appreciate this.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

hm Secretary
Enc;
return label and postage

COPY

May 16, 1935.

Mr. J. M. Cooper
Brunswick
Maine

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Some time ago we wrote you that we had ordered a copy of each of your books from the English publishers, and that these books were to be sent direct to you. Today we have received the bill, and it occurs to us that the Postoffice may charge you a duty.

We regret that we overlooked this possibility, but as the books is being bought by a library, there should be no duty. In the event that you are requested to pay, we will appreciate it if you will state the facts of the case, or instruct the postoffice to forward the package to us.

We regret the inconvenience this may have caused you, but assure you of our eagerness to secure these books, inscribed, for our Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours,
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

Brunswick,

May 27, 1935

Miss Hilda McLeod,
Secretary,
The Maine State Library,
Augusta

Dear Miss McLeod:

I am sorry that this answer to your several communications is so tardy. I must plead as an excuse that I have been extremely busy in getting off to the publishers my third book, which was long overdue.

The two books which you ordered from England arrived here the other day without any undue attention from the Customs, so it appears that your fears about a duty were groundless. You were quite right in thinking of it, however, for I have had to pay a duty on previous shipments. I have inscribed them, and am sending them along under separate cover. Thank you for your interest in them. I hope the inscriptions are satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. I should very much like to see the Maine Author Collection, and hope to get to Augusta some time this summer. "Death Rides the Air Line" is published in America, by the way, by Claude Kendall, New York.

John M. Cooper

COPY

May 29, 1935.

Mr. John M. Cooper
Brunswick
Maine

Dear Mr. Cooper:

We have received BEHIND THE HEADLINES and DEATH RIDES THE AIR LINES, and are delighted to be able to add these volumes to our Maine Author Collection. We are glad to learn that a third book is soon to be published, and we hope that we will have an inscribed copy for the collection.

Will you at your convenience send us some biographical material? We will greatly appreciate this, as our files are rather incomplete without this data, and of course we like to know the birthplace, date, and outstanding events in the lives of our writers.

We assure you we will be very pleased to have you visit the library and the Maine Author Collection; meanwhile we will anticipate the new book, for which we wish you the utmost success.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

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Secretary